

# BIRDING

## UTAH

LIFE ELEVATED™

Canada Geese take flight at sunset, Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

UTAH OFFICE OF TOURISM



Waterfowl at Willard Bay State Park, Box Elder County



Bullock's Oriole, Provo, Utah County, *Milt Moody*



Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge Wildlife Education Center, Brigham City



Flammulated Owl, Weber County, *Paul Higgins*



Long-billed Curlew, Great Salt Lake, *Keith Evans*

Utah is a birder's paradise, offering a spectacular array of habitats ranging from sub-alpine mountain, forest, sage-steppe, upland, lake, wetland and high elevation desert, all reachable within a single day. This rich ecology is home to over 430 bird species and is critically important to the Western Hemisphere's migration scheme. Great Salt Lake and its wetlands are a major staging area for millions of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds, housing a large percentage of the world's population of many species during their spring and fall migrations. With unequalled habitat and viewing vistas, Utah is truly "for the birds" and those who love them!

- ★ More than 430 species of birdlife have been recorded in Utah, including specialty birds like the California Condor and Black Rosy-Finch.
- ★ Great Salt Lake is a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network site, so designated for its importance as a staging area for millions of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds from the Arctic tundra to the tip of South America.
- ★ Utah is home to three national wildlife refuges and a dozen other sites deemed "major birding locations" by Utah's Division of Wildlife Resources.
- ★ Northern Utah's Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge is one of the best-known birding sites in the country.
- ★ Utah's State Bird, the California Gull, attained fame when it arrived in great numbers at the first Mormon settlement near Great Salt Lake in the summer of 1848 and devoured a locust swarm that threatened the pioneers' first crop.

### UTAH'S BIRDING TRAIL GUIDES



Great Salt Lake Birding Trails  
Eastern Utah Birding Trails  
Southwest Utah Birding Trails

These comprehensive trail guidebooks offer detailed maps and listings of birding trails located in three regions of the state. Produced jointly by the Audubon Society, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah Office of Tourism and many local partners, they are available for a nominal fee at:

[www.wasatchaudubon.org](http://www.wasatchaudubon.org)

### UTAH'S NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

**Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge:** Located at the northern tip of Great Salt Lake, it is considered a top-ten in the world by many birding enthusiasts. The 75,000 acre refuge is the migratory stop for millions of migrating birds, including the American White Pelican, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, White-faced Ibis and Snowy Plover. The Wildlife Education Center offers a schedule of family programs, and refuge tours may be available by request prior to your visit.

2155 West Forest Street, Brigham City  
(435) 723-5887

<http://bearriver.fws.gov>

Closed during federal holidays

Auto tour open daylight hours, daily year-round

**Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge:** Established in 1959, the refuge encompasses 17,992 acres of marshland. Skirting the southern boundary of the salt flats of the Great Salt Lake Desert, the springs served as an oasis for the most-used central route across the United States for westward-bound emigrants. Water is supplied by five major springs, which makes this refuge the perfect habitat for migrating wetland birds to stop and replenish before moving on. Mid-spring and late September are the peak times for viewing.

100 miles SW of Tooele / 80 miles NE of Delta (435) 831-5353

(on the Pony Express Trail)

<http://fishsprings.fws.gov>

Auto tour open daylight hours, daily year-round

**Ouray National Wildlife Refuge:** Located approximately 30 miles southwest of Vernal in northeastern Utah, Ouray consists of 12,000 acres that include 12 miles on the Green River. In the midst of Utah's desert environment, the river serves as a life sustaining necessity to the waterfowl, songbirds, and other wildlife migrating through. A 12-mile self-guided auto tour route winds through a variety of Refuge habitats, providing excellent wildlife viewing.

30 miles southwest of Vernal in Randlett (435) 545-2522

<http://ouray.fws.gov>

Auto tour open daylight hours, daily year-round

800-200-1160  
Int'l: 1-801-538-1900

[www.utah.travel](http://www.utah.travel)



Chukar atop a rocky perch, Antelope Island State Park, Keith Evans



Birding at Antelope Island causeway, Davis County, Steve Greenwood



A lone Snowy Plover at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Judd Patterson



An American White Pelican takes flight at Cutler Marsh/Reservoir, Cache County, Ted Steinke

## TOP VIEWING HOTSPOTS (from North to South)

For driving directions, photos and location specifics, go to the "Places to Bird" section at [utahbirds.org](http://utahbirds.org)

## Northern Utah

White's Valley – Johnson Canyon, [Box Elder County](#)  
 Cutler Marsh - Cache Valley, [Logan, Cache County](#)  
 Tony Grove Lake & Trails, [Cache County](#)  
 Mantua Reservoir, [Box Elder County](#)  
 Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, [Box Elder County](#)  
 Willard Bay State Park, [Box Elder County](#)  
 Powder Mountain Ski Area, [Cache/Weber Counties](#)  
 Monte Cristo Mountain Range, [Weber/Cache/Rich Counties](#)  
 Ogden Valley, [Weber County](#)  
 Fort Buenaventura, [Ogden, Weber County](#)  
 Snowbasin Ski Resort & environs, [Weber County](#)  
 Great Salt Lake wetlands, [Box Elder/Weber/Davis/Salt Lake/Tooele Counties](#)  
 Antelope Island State Park & Causeway, [Davis County](#)  
 Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area, [Davis County](#)  
 East Canyon State Park and Reservoir, [Morgan County](#)  
 Mirror Lake Scenic Byway—Uinta Mountains, [Summit/Duchesne Counties](#)  
 Josie Morris Cabin, Dinosaur National Monument, [Uintah County](#)  
 Jordan River Parkway, [Salt Lake County](#)

Big Cottonwood Canyon, [Salt Lake County](#)  
 Heber Valley, [Wasatch County](#)  
 Rush Valley, [Tooele County](#)  
 Ouray National Wildlife Refuge, [Uintah County](#)  
 Pelican Lake, [Uintah County](#)  
 Utah Lake – Provo Bay, [Utah County](#)  
 Nebo Loop Road, [Utah/Juab Counties](#)

## Southern Utah

Gunnison Bend/Clear Lake Reservoirs, [Millard County](#)  
 (March Snow Goose migration)  
 La Sal Mountain Loop Road, [Grand/San Juan Counties](#)  
 Minersville Reservoir, [Beaver County](#)  
 Boulder Mountain, [Wayne/Garfield Counties](#)  
 Devil's Canyon, [between Blanding & Monticello, San Juan County](#)  
 Cedar Breaks National Monument/Brian Head, [Iron County](#)  
 Kolob Canyon (California Condors), [Washington County](#)  
 Lytle Ranch Preserve, Mojave Desert, [Washington County](#)  
 Washington Fields at St. George, [Washington County](#)



Cutler Marsh



Antelope Island



Ouray National Wildlife Refuge



Lytle Ranch Preserve

## BIRDING EVENTS

St. George Winter Bird Festival, [Washington County](#), January  
[www.sgcity.org/birdfestival](http://www.sgcity.org/birdfestival)

Snow Goose Festival, [Delta, Millard County](#), February  
[www.deltagoosefestival.info](http://www.deltagoosefestival.info)

International Migratory Bird Day Celebration, [Cedar City](#), April (dates to be determined) [www.wildlife.utah.gov/watchable-wildlife/events.php](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/watchable-wildlife/events.php)

Great Salt Lake Bird Festival, [Davis County Fairgrounds](#), May  
[www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com](http://www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com)

For a complete statewide listing of birding events, go to: [www.utahbirds.org](http://www.utahbirds.org)

## WEB RESOURCES / HOTLINES

[www.utahbirds.org](http://www.utahbirds.org) One of the top-rated state birding websites in the country offers information on birding sites by county, a statewide calendar of birding events, printable checklists, a photo gallery of Utah birds and more.

[www.bridgertlandaudubon.org](http://www.bridgertlandaudubon.org) Regional chapters of the National Audubon Society  
[www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org](http://www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org) offer free field trips and  
[www.wasatchaudubon.org](http://www.wasatchaudubon.org) programs, trail maps and  
[xmission.com/~cldavis/rcadubon.htm](http://xmission.com/~cldavis/rcadubon.htm) information on becoming involved in Utah's birding community.

[www.wildlife.utah.gov/birdsightings](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/birdsightings) This site, operated by the State Division of Wildlife Resources, includes a log of recent sightings and a calendar of events.

[www.wildbirdcenter.com](http://www.wildbirdcenter.com) The Wild Bird Centers in Layton and Salt Lake City are a great resource for birders, offering information and birding supplies.

435-734-6426 Birding info line for Bear River MBR  
 801-538-4730 Recorded hotline detailing statewide sightings

American Avocets at sunset, Great Salt Lake

[www.utahbirds.org](http://www.utahbirds.org)